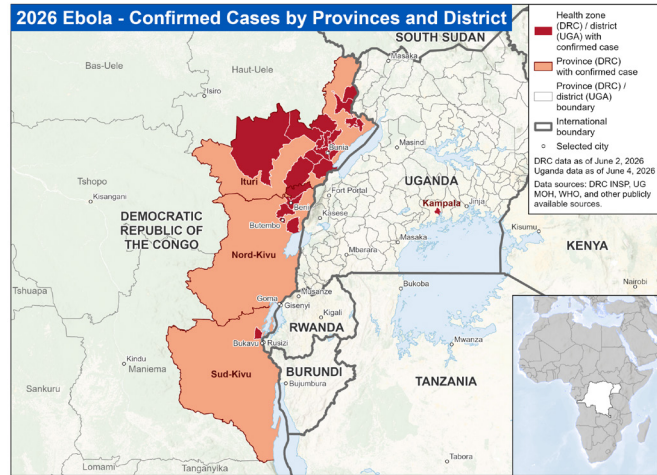




2026 Ebola Outbreak

The Issue

An epidemic of Ebola Disease caused by Bundibugyo virus is occurring in remote areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda. This is DRC’s 17th outbreak of Ebola. Currently, no licensed vaccines or therapeutics exist for the Bundibugyo ebolavirus, resulting in gaps in prevention, clinical management, research preparedness, and rapid deployment of countermeasures.



Fogarty’s Investment

Fogarty provides sustained investment to help develop global scientific leadership and regional expertise to conduct the highest quality biomedical research. These same experts can rapidly support infectious disease epidemic response efforts, including the current Ebola outbreak in Africa. Many of the competencies needed to address the current outbreak—including laboratory diagnostics, field epidemiology, genomic sequencing, infection prevention and control, data analysis, clinical research, and risk communication—directly align with the capacity investment objectives in the region.

Fogarty alumni are contributing across every aspect of the current Ebola response. They serve in positions of government leadership, provide critical expertise, participate in high-level advisory groups, and also are deployed to affected communities.

Since 1997, Fogarty has funded grants focused on Ebola-related training and research. Additionally, the Center’s long-term commitment to institutional partnerships contributes to a growing network of African academic institutions and research organizations capable of preparedness, rapid outbreak response, operational research, genomic surveillance, leadership, and translation of research into policy and practice.

By the Numbers

- 101 unique Ebola-related awards funded by Fogarty since 1997
- Supporting research and training across 30+ countries
- Funding institutions in 7 countries, including 18 U.S. institutions across 13 states
- 100+ trainees across sub-Saharan Africa

Spotlight on FIC Training Program in DRC

The **Emerging and Re-Emerging Pathogens research Training Program in DRC**—a Fogarty Global Infectious Diseases grant to the Institut National pour la Recherche Biomedicale (INRB)—aims to build a critical mass of well-trained research scientists, technicians, and logistics personnel who are prepared to respond to emerging infectious diseases, including Ebola outbreaks. Some trainees have been deployed to the outbreak epicenter in the DRC.

Two P.I.s on this grant, **Dr. Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum**, Director of INRB, and **Dr. Jean Nachega**, Faculty and Director, Center for Infectious Diseases, Stellenbosch University, and Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, are advising on the recent Ebola outbreak response, contributing to surveillance, diagnostics, and coordination as well as serving as members on the AFRICA CDC Emergency Consultative Group of Experts.

“Importantly, the [FIC training] program aims not only to build academic expertise, but also to strengthen preparedness, rapid response capacity, operational research, genomic surveillance, scientific leadership, and translation of research into policy and practice.”

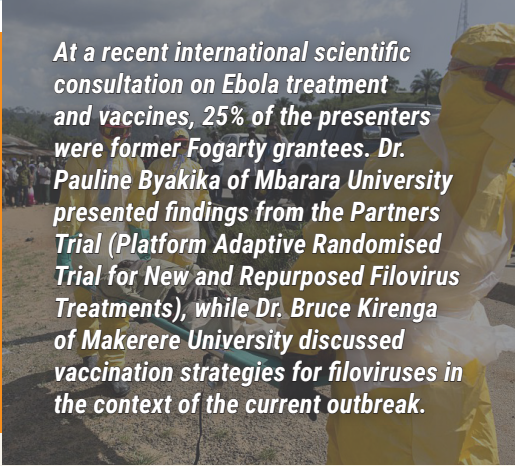
—Jean Nachega, MD, PhD



Fogarty Grants Address the Threat of Ebola and other Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases in the Region

Advancing Ebola Forecasting with Mobile Health Technologies

Averting future global pandemics requires surveillance programs that can quickly and accurately identify potential new outbreaks worldwide. Mobile health technologies are a promising strategy for collecting data on infectious diseases in remote, underserved settings at the nexus of human and wildlife interactions and zoonotic disease spillover. The **Advancing One Health Data Capture at the Point of Zoonotic Spillover in the Congo Basin Forest Perimeter—a Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in Low- and Middle-Income Countries** grant to the University of California at Davis—aims to develop a platform to improve detection of zoonotic spillover, including Ebola virus disease, in Southwest Uganda. The tool helps to model ecological scenarios and forecasting to better understand ebolavirus emergence and prevent future outbreaks.



At a recent international scientific consultation on Ebola treatment and vaccines, 25% of the presenters were former Fogarty grantees. Dr. Pauline Byakika of Mbarara University presented findings from the Partners Trial (Platform Adaptive Randomised Trial for New and Repurposed Filovirus Treatments), while Dr. Bruce Kirenga of Makerere University discussed vaccination strategies for filoviruses in the context of the current outbreak.

Fogarty Partners Across the U.S. Government to Co-Fund Global Ebola Research

The **Measuring Human Behavior and Ecological Dimensions of Pathogen Transmission for Outbreak Control and Prevention Study**—awarded to Pennsylvania State University through the joint Fogarty and National Science Foundation’s Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program—focuses on improving outbreak response times and preventing Ebola outbreaks in the DRC. Dr. Nita Bharti, the lead P.I. on this grant, is an Ebola expert who has been cited in news articles about the recent outbreak. Additionally, the **NeuroEbola** project—a Fogarty Global Brain Disorders Research grant co-funded by the National Eye Institute—focuses on brain and eye complications related to Ebola infection and aims to build capacity for research in the DRC. The project is led by Dr. Desire Tshala-Katumbay, a neurologist at Oregon Health & Science University and lead investigator of the 1995 Kikwit Ebola outbreak.



Crispus Kiyonga, another Fogarty grantee, was recently appointed Uganda’s Second Deputy Prime Minister. From 1996-2001, he served as the country’s Minister of Health and oversaw its response to the 2000 Ebola outbreak in Gulu.

Global Infectious Disease Training Program (GID) Strengthens Local Ebola Response Capacity

The 2013-2016 Ebola Virus Disease Epidemic in West Africa revealed the need for improved regional capacity for research in emerging infectious diseases. Fogarty’s **Boston University-University of Liberia Partnership to Enhance Emerging Epidemic Virus Research in Liberia** aims to create a pipeline of next generation Liberian investigators. This grant, which is part of Fogarty’s GID program, advances Masters degree candidates towards a doctoral degree and medical school graduates towards

a Masters in Science, with hopes of retaining intellectual capital in-country.

The **Mali-Guinea Emerging Infectious Disease Research Training Program** (University of Bamako in Mali, University of Conakry in Guinea, Johns Hopkins University, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases) provides training in field and laboratory epidemiology, translational clinical research, public health emergency management, and genomic characterization and surveillance of emerging pathogens.

The **Partnership for Research in Emerging Viral Infections-Sierra Leone**, a collaboration among the University of Sierra Leone College of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences, Kenema Government Hospital, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health, and Tulane University, aims to develop the capability to conduct clinical trial research during epidemics and outbreaks, including Ebola epidemics.